

FRENCH ASSIMILATION IN PRACTICE

13

encourage the evangelisation of the population, he¹ was sufficiently knowledgeable about the country and its people to realise that it would be impossible to win converts from among the Muslims who formed the majority in Senegal. Scholarships for primary education in St. Louis, and secondary education in France were awarded under his auspices to promising students. Small technical schools were established at Dakar. And he even opened a museum at St. Louis. 643 [797]

He tried to equip the colony with some of the benefits of a modern economy. He established the Bank of Senegal, laid out St. Louis afresh as befitted a capital city, and under his influence Pinet-Laprade founded the new port of Dakar. He promoted the export of the ground-nut crop, becoming increasingly valuable to the colony's revenue which rose from 12 million francs in 1848 to 37 million in 1869, and proved a profitable substitute for human merchandise. He made valuable and detailed studies of the local people. Like Lugard he seemed to be able to think of every aspect of administration at the same time. The historian G. Hardy wrote of him: 'He touched on everything, and always with good results.' But as J. Richard-Molard commented, 'He was the first great Frenchman to realise the wish of Barth. But he did it as an officer of the Empire, endowed with an abominable character and a sense of authority which bordered on vice. He was proconsul of an authoritarian Empire.' 453 [369] [439] [433]

One decision vital for the future of the Senegal was made during the Faidherbian regime: this was the final abandonment of any ideals of European colonisation. It came at a time when the French were settling Algeria, and was not altogether altruistic, as the ministerial instructions of 1859 showed: 648

Nothing similar to Algeria could be undertaken in Senegal. The climate is against it. The land should therefore be left to the natives, at least as a general rule. It is by their hands that it should be cultivated and if our rule is to be extended over all the territory [i.e., Faidherbe, who became Governor in 1854 - Guolys]

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000 at Dakar.

369 Even more than in the sphere of aviation, however, it is
648 on the commercial and industrial plane that the other states of
[433] former French West Africa were, before the recent political
[453] disturbances, dependent on Dakar. In fact Dakar was the seat
[441] of the banks and of the commercial associations or the branch
agencies of the mother country, all of whom /Pl. XXI and XXII
appear here on unnumbered pages/ /381/exercise from Dakar,
if not always a role of direct administration, at least some co-
ordination and in any case an influence that is not negligible on
the branches scattered across Senegal, former French West Africa,
and sometimes even across foreign territories. Thus, the C. F. A. O.,
the S. C. O. Z., the B. A. O., and the B. C. A., which practice
their activities in practically all of Black Africa, although having
their seat in Paris, are strongly established in Dakar, from where
they manage a number of agencies and branches. On the other
hand, the Société Maurel et Prom, which has branches in Senegal,
Mauritania, the Sudan, Guinea, and Gambia, the "Commerce
Africain," which has establishments in Senegal, Gambia, the
Ivory Coast, and the Cameroun, and other companies have their
[439] seat in Dakar (17). Moreover it must be added that several in-

17. "Le Commerce Africain" transferred its
seat from Dakar to Paris in July 1960.

dustries (oil factories, soap factories, breweries, cement factories, textile factories, shoe factories, etc.) established on the peninsula of Cape Verde send a part of their products to other territories in former French West Africa.

369 Finally, because of its former function as federal capital,
633 Dakar brought together all of the federal political and adminis-
648 trative organs, which permitted it to direct and co-ordinate all
of the political, administrative, and economic life of former
French West Africa.

Thus, Dakar became the leader, the undisputed metropolis,
upon which there depended a regional assemblage much

[Text continues on p. 17--Analyst]

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443 Markets. Fairs. Daily markets have been established in the mixed communes of Kaolack, Foundiougne, Fatick, and Gossas, as well as in the important centers such as Guinguinéo, Birkelane, Kaffrine, Kounghoul, Nioro, Saboya, Sokone, and Gandiaye. Those of the mixed communes and important ports are much frequented and have a good trade.

In addition, cattle markets have been held monthly at Kaolack since 1924.

543 Fairs have been instituted in order to familiarize the public with the principal products of the region. A first Fair-Exposition was held at Kaolack in June 1925; it was a great success. It had been organized with the co-operation of the administration and commerce. This happy attempt was renewed in April 1926 with the same success. The governor-general, M. Carde, was present at these two fine manifestations of the economic life of a region in full development.

• 453 /126/ Banks. The dependable index of the development of commercial transactions is given to us by the banking groups which have been established at Kaolack.

The Banque de l'Afrique Occidentale Française opened a branch in the chief town of the circle in 1927. Moreover, other credit establishments had preceded it. An agency of the Banque française d'Afrique was opened in 1924. The Banque Commerciale africaine followed in 1925.

871 Education. It is necessary to educate the native if we want him later to be our collaborator in the work of colonization. We are realizing this duty by the public schooling which is given at Kaolack in a regional school attended by nearly 500 children; a home economics school is attached to it. Primary schools where the number of pupils is very great are in operation at Fatick, Foundiougne, Gossas, Kaffrine, Nioro, and Sokone.

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461 It is also necessary to develop vocational education because we lack good workers. We are going to be in want of artisans if we do not remedy a situation which had already appeared in this region several years ago. Unfortunately, the